

ABSTRACT

An optical path switching device comprises a light transmitting portion, a first electrode layer, a second electrode layer, a first adhesive layer, a second adhesive layer, a first supporting portion and a second supporting portion. The light transmitting portion has a plurality of refracting regions wherein the refractive indexes of a light can be uniformly controlled by the electro-optic effect in the direction perpendicular to the traveling direction of the light, and the thickness of the light transmitting portion changes along the traveling direction of the light. The first electrode layer and the second electrode layer are so formed as to sandwich the light transmitting portion and as to cover at least a part of the refracting regions. The first supporting portion is tightly arranged on a side of the first electrode layer, which side is out of contact with the light transmitting layer, via the first adhesive layer. The second supporting portion is tightly arranged on a side of the second electrode layer, which side is out of contact with the light transmitting layer, via the second adhesive layer.